



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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To: Chairman Hartley, Chairman Dargan, Ranking Member Guglielmo, Ranking Member Giegler and members of the Public Safety & Security Committee

From: Rep. Tim Ackert, 8th Assembly District

Date: February 15, 2011

Re: Raised HB No 6296 *AA Adopting The National Electrical Code, The International Plumbing Code, The International Mechanical Code, And The International Fuel Gas Code.*

For the record I am Tim Ackert, State Representative for the 8th Assembly District and a license electrician since 1985, an instructor for apprentice and licensed electricians since 1990.

Thirty years ago my first introduction into the electrical field came with the instruction from my supervisor to learn the 1981 National Electric Code (NEC). "If you are going to succeed in this field you have to know the codes" he said. As an electrician in the military you understood rules and you learned the codes that impacted your career. Today I am a small business owner that employs electricians and those words from my instructor hold true today. Codes are in place to provide guide lines for one reason; safety.

Practical Safeguarding. The purpose of this Code is the practical safeguarding of persons and property from the hazards arising from the use of electricity.

Today the electricians of Connecticut are still using the 2005 National Electrical Code with amendments. Many states are using the updated version 2011 or at least the 2008. Our technical schools whether private or public are teaching to the 2008 and will soon be teaching to the 2011. The electrical apprentices will be taking their licensure test on the 2008 codes but the trade is still under the 2005 code requirements. I am curious to know why our professions in the field are using a code that has already been revised twice.

Electrical supply houses and equipment manufactures deal with national trends in the business. If the majority of the states are using updated codes then the distributors are supplying materials that meet that need. As new products like Solar Voltaic equipment are advancing at a rapid pace, so should the requirements for installation. As the electric cars start hitting the road electrical codes have been updated to insure safe installations. As new technology presents itself the National Electrical Code Committee is active in addressing the oversight for safe installations.

As electricians sometimes we don't always want new codes or mandates. But to level the playing field and bidding wars for jobs it is important that each contractor is working from the same set of standards.

The National Electrical Code is updated every three years and the completed code is voted on in June of the prior year. It seems there is plenty of time to adopt this code in a timelier manner. In 2004 the legislature mandated that certain occupational licenses take Continuing Education. There are many topics that must be covered in this course and the main one is electrical codes. I teach one of these courses for an approved provider and this year I will be teaching the 2005 code changes for the sixth year.

I believe including the NEC in Sec. 29-252 of the Connecticut General Statutes is good for the trade and more importantly safer for the customers we serve. I have included this section for your review and would be happy to answers any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of passing this bill.